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Docket No. 2786-0199P

Please substitute the attached revised page 28 for the amended page 28 attached to the International Preliminary Examination Report.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 through 25 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please add the following claims:

--26. (New) An isolated nucleic acid sequence, of an alternative splicing variant of CD40 receptor (CD40R), selected from:

(i) the nucleic acid sequence depicted in any one of SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 6; or
nucleic acid sequences having at least 90% identity with any one of the sequences of (i) over the entire length of the sequence.

27. (New) An isolated nucleic acid sequence complementary to the nucleic acid sequence of Claim 26.

28. (New) An amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(i) an amino acid sequence coded by the isolated nucleic acid sequence of Claim 26; and

- (ii) homologues of the amino acid sequences of (i) in which one or more amino acids has been added, deleted, replaced or chemically modified.

29. (New) An amino acid sequence according to Claim 28, as depicted in any one of SEQ ID NO:7 to SEQ ID NO:12.

30. (New) An isolated nucleic acid sequence coding with any one of the amino acid sequences of Claim 28.

31. (New) A purified antibody which binds specifically to an amino acid sequence present in any of the amino acid sequences of Claim 28 and not present in native CD40R.

32. (New) An expression vector comprising any one of the nucleic acid sequences of Claim 26 and control elements for the expression of the nucleic acid sequences in a suitable host.

33. (New) An expression vector comprising any one of the nucleic acid sequences of Claim 27, and control elements for the expression of the nucleic acid sequences in a suitable host.

34. (New) A host cell transfected by the expression vector of Claim 32.

35. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and as an active ingredient an agent selected from the group consisting of the expression vector of Claim 32.

36. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and as an active ingredient an agent selected from the group consisting of any one of the amino acid sequences of Claim 28.

37. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 35, for treatment of diseases which can be ameliorated, cured or prevented by decreasing the level of at least one ligand of CD40R.

38. (New) A pharmaceutical composition for treatment of diseases which can be ameliorated, cured or prevented by increasing the level of at least one of the CD40R variants of Claim 26.

39. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and as an active ingredient any one of the nucleic acid sequences of Claim 27.

- (b) detecting said antibody-antigen complex wherein the presence of said antibody-antigen complex correlates with the presence of the desired amino acid in said biological sample.

51. (New) A method for detecting the level of any one of the amino acid sequences of Claim 28 in a biological sample, comprising:

- (a) contacting with said biological sample an antibody which binds specifically to an amino acid sequence present in any of the amino acid sequences of Claim 28 and not present in native CD40R, thereby forming an antibody-antigen complex; and
- (b) detecting the amount of said antibody-antigen complex and normalizing said amount to provide the level of said amino acid sequence in the sample.

52. (New) A method for determining the ratio between the level of any one of the amino acid sequences of Claim 28 of variant CD40R present in a first biological sample and the level of the original CD40R amino acid sequences from which they were varied by alternative splicing, present in a second biological sample, the method comprising:

- (a) determining the level of the amino acid sequences of Claim 28 in a first sample;

Docket No. 2786-0199P

- (b) determining the level of the original CD40R amino acid sequence in the second sample; and
- (c) comparing the level obtained in (a) and (b) to give said ratio.

53. (New) A method according to Claim 52, wherein said first and said second biological samples are the same sample.